

CALIFORNIA CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION

NOVEMBER 2001 COMMISSION MEETING

SACRAMENTO, CA

November 15, 2001

HIGHLIGHTS

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Reiner at 8:45 a.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Kim Belshé, Susan Lacey, Louis Vismara, Karen Hill-Scott, Theresa Garcia, and Chairman Rob Reiner. Commissioner Glen Rosselli arrived later. Commissioner Sandra Gutierrez was absent.

Agenda Item 3 – Approval of Minutes – ACTION

- Commissioner Belshé suggested a format change for the minutes: heading, discussion of Commissioners, followed by public comment.
- Commissioner Vismara pointed out a correction needed on page 3 under Item 8, Statewide Proposition 10 Program Evaluation RFP: should be “disaggregated” instead of “aggregated.”
- It was suggested that the public comment on Item 11, page 4, Public Policy Institute of California report on the Conditions of California’s Young Children, be summarized and included in the minutes.

Action by Commission: Chairman Reiner moved, seconded by Commissioner Lacey, to approve the minutes as edited. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4 – Chairman’s Report

- Chairman Reiner reported that on November 1, 2001, the Commission launched its new multi-lingual paid media campaign that includes new television, radio, print and outdoor ads.
- The Commission received 2,000 calls on its 800 line on the first day of the ad campaign. In addition, the Kit for New Parents was launched and is now in distribution.
- Chairman Reiner reported that he spoke at the Safe Schools Statewide Conference on November 14, entitled “School - Law Enforcement Partnership,” sponsored by the California Department of Education and the California Attorney General. He addressed the effects of exposure to violence on young children and how it affects later success in school.

- The Commission and the Department of Justice have entered into a new three-year partnership that will continue the important work that began last year. The new agreement includes the following new activities:
 - Develop a Promising Strategies Program and Evaluation Guidebook coupled with a video highlighting strategies in action.
 - Coordinate visits to model promising practices sites.
 - Recruit, train and support violence prevention volunteers in all counties modeled after the School/Law Enforcement Cadre.
 - Enhance the SFTS web site to provide promising and evaluated strategies used by communities statewide and family violence prevention information, including the latest national and statewide statistics.
 - Conduct a follow-up one-day conference to promote promising practices, sustainability, and creative funding opportunities.
- Chairman Reiner reported that he will be speaking at a second event related to the Safe from the State Initiative. He will participate as a panelist at the National Association of Attorneys General, Winter Conference, on December 6, 2001 in Newport Beach. The panel includes California Attorney General Bill Lockyer, Dr. Bruce Perry and Secretary for Health and Human Services Grantland Johnson.

Agenda Item 5 – Executive Director’s Report – Dr. Jane Henderson

- Dr. Henderson reported that Governor Davis announced that he has called for \$2 billion in cuts to the State Budget. This will affect low performing schools, as well as the \$24 million that had been set aside for CalWORKs recipients and the working poor. This information is available in detail on the Department of Finance website. This cut will fall very hard on the counties. Ex-Officio Member Theresa Garcia said there should be no decrease in current education programs, as the proposed cuts relate to programs that are not yet in place.
- A series of four hearings, held by Assembly Member Wilma Chan, are in process regarding children’s health care and school readiness, as part of her Select Committee on California Children’s School Readiness and Health. Dr. Henderson summarized the dates and topics of the hearings, and indicated that the Commission has been and will continue to be represented at each of the hearings. The two remaining hearings are November 29 in Salinas, and December 5 in Oakland. From these hearings will come recommendations for a legislative agenda.
- Dr. Henderson encouraged everyone to visit the Commission’s website to access research documents, the work of the Commission’s Advisory Committee on Diversity, information on the Kit for New Parents, data on children 0-5 by county, links to all the county commissions, and to some key state agencies.

Agenda Item 6 – California Children and Families Association (CCAFA) Report – Dorinda Ohnstad/Steve Barrow

Steve Barrow, Executive Director of the CCAFA, provided highlights of the CCAFA's monthly meeting:

- Packard awarded another \$1 million to the CCAFA for continued Technical Assistance (TA) support;
- The State Commission was applauded for its work on the CCFC Business Plan. The CCAFA will be submitting their written comments on the Business Plan to the State Commission next week.
- County commissions will reach consensus on issues for the county commission policy panel to focus on at the Commission's February retreat. CCAFA will get the issues to the State Commission in December.
- CCAFA will be identifying options for minimum funding for small population counties.
- CCAFA will be defining its policy platform, and requested that State Commission staff and Commissioners join them for their all-day meeting on December 13.
- CCAFA representatives are working with State Commission staff on TA, and are very happy with the relationship and appreciate the work of the State staff.

Outgoing CCAFA President, Dorinda Ohnstad, was honored by the Commission with a gift of appreciation for her work over the past year and one-half, and for her key role in establishing the CCAFA. She begins her new position at the California Endowment immediately.

Agenda Item 7 – State Commission Guidelines – ACTION

- The Commission was asked to approve adding to the "Guidelines: A Resource for Developing Prop. 10 Strategic Plans," the Equity Principles that were approved at the October 2001 Commission meeting.

Action by Commission: The motion to approve inclusion of the Equity Principles in the Commission's "Guidelines" document was seconded and passed by vote without dissent.

Agenda Item 8 – Attorney General's Advisory Opinion of Supplantation/Supplementation - ACTION

- The Commission considered an Advisory Opinion providing guidance on the issue of supplantation and supplementation. The Commission's legal counsel explained the difference between a Formal Opinion and an Advisory Opinion. Formal Opinions take at least six months, whereas an Advisory Opinion can be made available fairly quickly by means of an unpublished letter, but has no binding authority. Staff reported that the County Counsels Association, with whom the Commission collaborated on this issue, would prefer that the opinion be formal. Commissioners asked, and counsel responded, about the process for requesting a formal opinion.

Action by Commission: The motion to adopt the Advisory Opinion was seconded and passed by vote without dissent.

Agenda Item 9 – Healthy Families Outreach Proposal – ACTION

This item was dropped from the agenda due to the Governor's announcement of budget cuts, which will likely impact the state's Healthy Families outreach program.

Agenda Item 10 – Technical Assistance for County Commissions – ACTION

The Commission was asked to authorize the release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for long-term technical assistance (TA) services for county commissions.

- Richard Iniguez provided an overview of current TA services available to county commissions, including mini-grants directly to county commissions; a UCLA interagency agreement that is under development; services available through CCAFA, including Center for Health Improvement consultants; individual consultants that county commissions can access through their own Proposition 10 resources; services that are available through the Commission's public relations contract.
- This RFP is for long-term TA (3 years) and is being developed cooperatively by a Joint TA Planning Workgroup, which includes county commission and CCAFA representatives. It will address TA on best and promising program practices, building capacity, coordination with other TA providers and contractors, and administrative and reporting functions.
- A Letter of Interest to potential bidders will be released in November.
- This RFP will be brought back to the Commission in the Spring of 2002 for approval of contract funding and authorization to enter into a contract.
- The Joint TA Workgroup is working to ensure that the RFP is released, proposals are evaluated, and a contract is in place by June 1, 2002, to terminate May 31, 2005.

Action by Commission: The motion to approve the release of the RFP for long-term TA services was seconded and passed by vote without dissent.

Agenda Item 11 – Commission Meeting Calendar – ACTION

- The Commission discussed the need and schedule for a December Commission meeting. Commission staff recommended that a December meeting be held, but that it should occur on December 11, 2001, instead of December 13, 2001. The agenda for this meeting will include a health panel (the first of four Policy Panels being scheduled for upcoming Commission meetings), a report of the findings from UCLA on the health interview survey, and other business issues.

Action by Commission: The motion to approve a December 11, 2001 meeting was seconded and passed by vote without dissent.

Agenda Item 12 – CCFC Strategic Business Plan – Discussion

- The Commission was provided with an update from staff on the Commission's Strategic Business Plan. It was reported that the Commission is currently finalizing the document, that a more detailed budget section is being developed, and that the final Plan will be presented to the Commission in December for approval. The CCAFA is reviewing the Plan; their comments are expected this week.

Agenda Item 13 – Update on Statewide Data Collection and Evaluation RFP – Discussion

- The Commission received an update from staff on the status of the RFP for Statewide Data Collection and Evaluation. The Commission will not be doing individual child assessments; rather, indicators will be the focus.

Agenda Item 14 – Advisory Committee on Diversity Update – Discussion

- Commissioner Vismara reported that the Advisory Committee met on October 29, with 21 of the 24 Committee members in attendance. He reported that Barbara Marquez, Commission staff to the Committee, was recognized for her excellent work. Dr. Vismara then provided the highlights for a number of CCFC initiatives and projects that were discussed:
 - Central Valley Farm Worker Proposal:
Nine members of the Advisory Committee volunteered to work with the Central Valley county commission executive directors on further preparing the proposal. The first conference call is being convened by CCFC on November 29. The Commission will hear back from county commissions an understanding of the questions from the Commission and from the Advisory Committee on Diversity. A discussion ensued about the role of the Advisory Committee in recommending action on this and other issues it is reviewing for the Commission. The Commission itself has responsibility for providing direction to the Central Valley county commissions on this issue.
 - Stakeholder Forum for Proposition 10 Programs and Activities for Children with Disabilities:
The Advisory Committee received an update from Sonoma State University on the three Stakeholder Forums being conducted this month to identify priorities and make recommendations to State Commission on future policy and program investments pertinent to children with disabilities and their families.
 - Equity Principles:
Even with the approval of the Equity Principles by the State Commission on October 18, 2001, the Advisory Committee is mindful that their passage is only the beginning of the work involved with realizing the benefit from these documents.

Agenda Item 15 – School Readiness Initiative – Discussion

- The Commission was provided with an update on implementation of the Initiative. The Commission has received 29 applications for School Readiness Implementation Funds, and 30 ‘Intent to Participate’ forms from county commissions as of November 14, 2001. A reminder about the December 15 due date for receipt of the ‘Intent to Participate’ forms for the SR Initiative was provided at the November CCAFA meeting, plus an email reminder was sent to county commissions. County commission applications for School Readiness Matching Funds (Phase 1) are due to the Commission October 15, 2001 and January 15, 2002.
- There have been five teleconferences on School Readiness since August 2001, and approximately 15-20 County Commissions have participated in each. The next one is planned for December 6, 2001. The southern counties are meeting on November 16, 2001, to work on School Readiness and Collaboration in preparation for coordinating their Phase 1B applications. Also, a set of “Frequently Asked Questions” has been updated and posted on the CCFC website (under School Readiness).

Item 16 – School Readiness Component of the Legislature’s Master Plan for Education – Discussion

- Commissioner Hill-Scott updated the Commission on the work of the School Readiness working group of the Legislature’s Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan for Education (K-University). Her presentation included the progress and development of the School Readiness Component of the Master Plan, including:
 - Rationale
 - Various aspects and sources of “readiness” and its dimensions
 - Approach
 - Curriculum and Pedagogy
 - Accountability
 - Facilities
 - Professional and Career Development
 - Governance
 - Finance
 - Connection to the other six working groups responsible for the Master Plan

Item 17 – Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned

Next Commission Meeting will be held on December 11 in Sacramento